

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4833

1. Name

Historic 404 - 420 South Madeira Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 404 - 420 South Madeira Street
city, town Baltimore
state & zip code Maryland 21231 county

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name
street & number telephone
city, town state & zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state & zip code

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check One

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check One

☒ original site
☐ moved:
date of move: _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This row of nine two-bay-wide, two-story brick houses with low-pitched gable roofs are typical of the small alley houses built in Baltimore in the 1850s, often along especially narrow secondary alley streets running perpendicularly off the main "alley" street. In this particular case, the houses were not built until 1870—a late date for this style. In many cases, alley houses such as these are still occupied by working class families and many are still covered with the formstone put on in the 1950s or 1960s.

The houses are two stories in height, 13' and 13'8" wide and occupy lots 49' deep. Each house is three small rooms deep without a rear kitchen addition somewhat narrower than the house. The pitch of the gable roof is especially low, a characteristic of this particular type of two-story, gable-roofed alley house. The houses are constructed in common bond, but all but one of the facades are now covered with formstone. Originally each house had a simple brick corbelled cornice, but these are now obscured by the formstone. Chimneys are located at the rear end of the house.

Door and window openings have no lintels and brick sills, but most have been completely obscured by the formstone coverings and all windows are filled with replacement 1/1 sash. A few first floor windows have been replaced with the wider plate glass windows with stained glass transoms that became popular in the early 20th century and these houses have stained glass transoms over the doors as well. No original doors survive and the row shows a mix of replacement door styles, all surmounted by a single light transom. The houses sit on low basements, the entrances being reached by a low, single concrete or brick step.

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8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportator	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

Specific dates 1870

Builder/Architect Frederick Portugal

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

These houses are significant as being representative of a surviving group of extremely modest two-story, gable-roofed houses built in Fells Point in the 1850s – 1860s, to serve as inexpensive housing for the influx of newly arrived immigrant families seeking work in harbor-related activities or in the first small factories being built at this time. This particular group of houses was built at the very end of the period when this style is seen, in 1870, when Frederick Portugal built modest houses on the west side of Madeira St., the north and south side of Portugal Alley, and the south side of Choptank Court, then called Griffin's Court.

Portugal sold most of these houses to German-American semi-skilled workers or laborers employed in nearby early factories, who obtained mortgages from the wide variety of local German-American building and loan associations. In terms of design, the houses are basically the descendants of earlier Federal-style working class housing built in the early decades of the century, but without the usual dormer story of such houses. Because there is no dormer story the roof slope is much less steep in these later versions of the style. The houses are quite tiny, with two small rooms on each floor and a centrally located, tightly winding, narrow staircase.

The houses are especially significant since they today serve as housing for local working class families, just as they did when built one hundred and fifty years ago.

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9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

city, town Baltimore

date

telephone

state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of proper

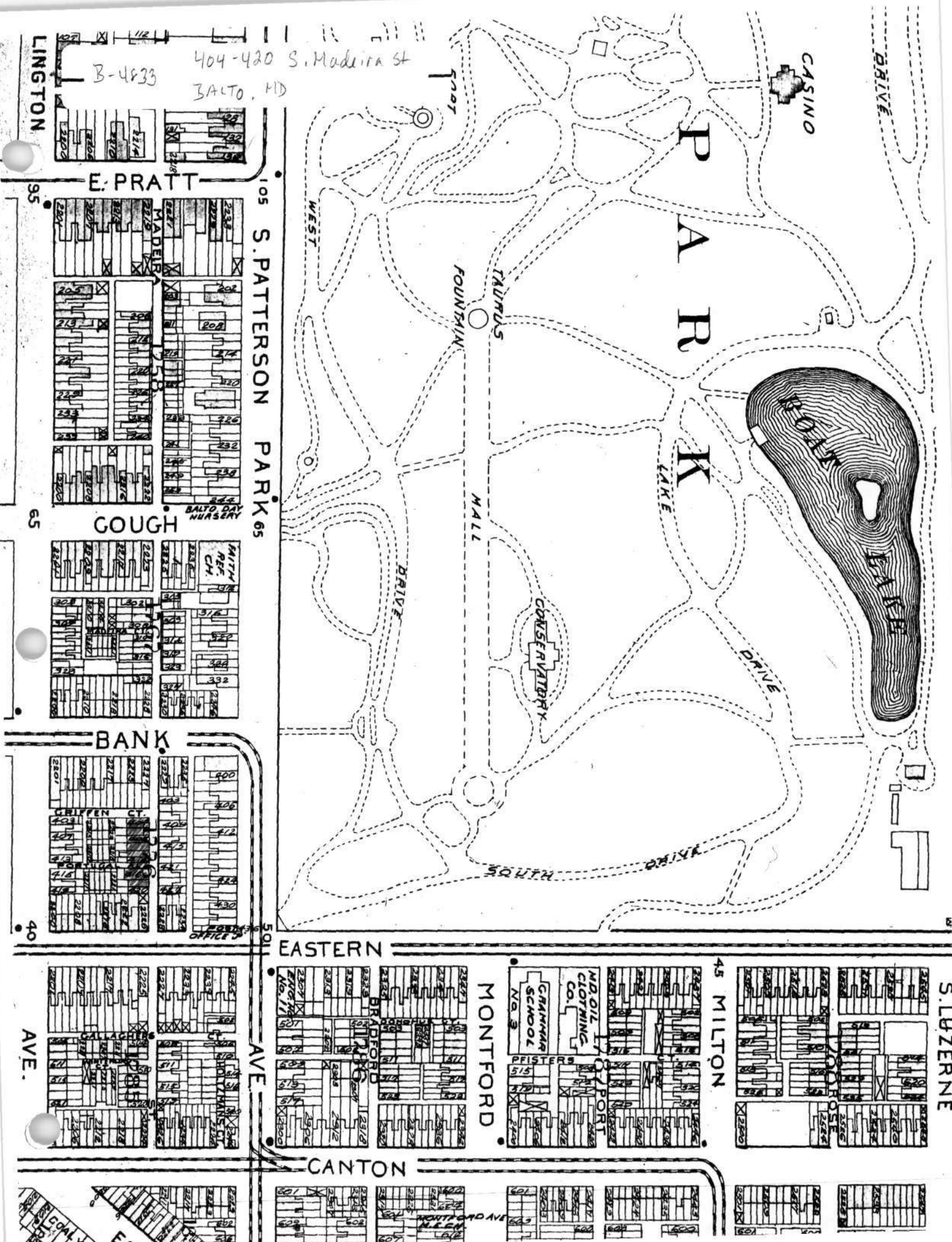
Return to:

DHCP/DHCD

Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place

Crownsville MD 21032-2023



404-420 S. Madeira St
BALTO. MD

B-4833

LINGTON

E. PRATT

105 S. PATTERSON PARK

COUGH

BANK

EASTERN

MONTFORD

CANTON

45 MILTON

S. LUZERNE

AVE.

AVE.

CASINO

DRIVE

PARK

TAURUS FOUNTAIN

CONSERVATORY

MALL

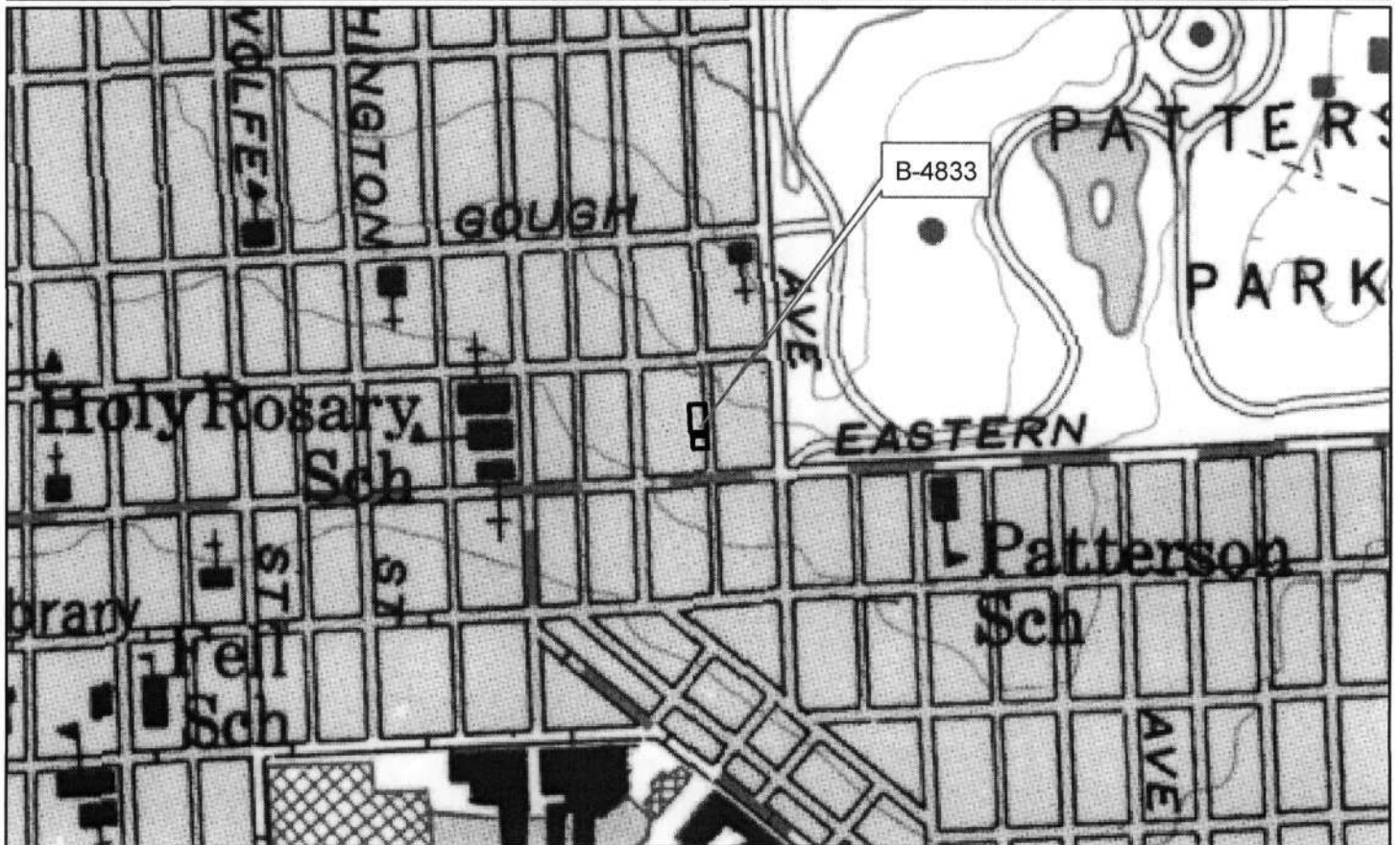
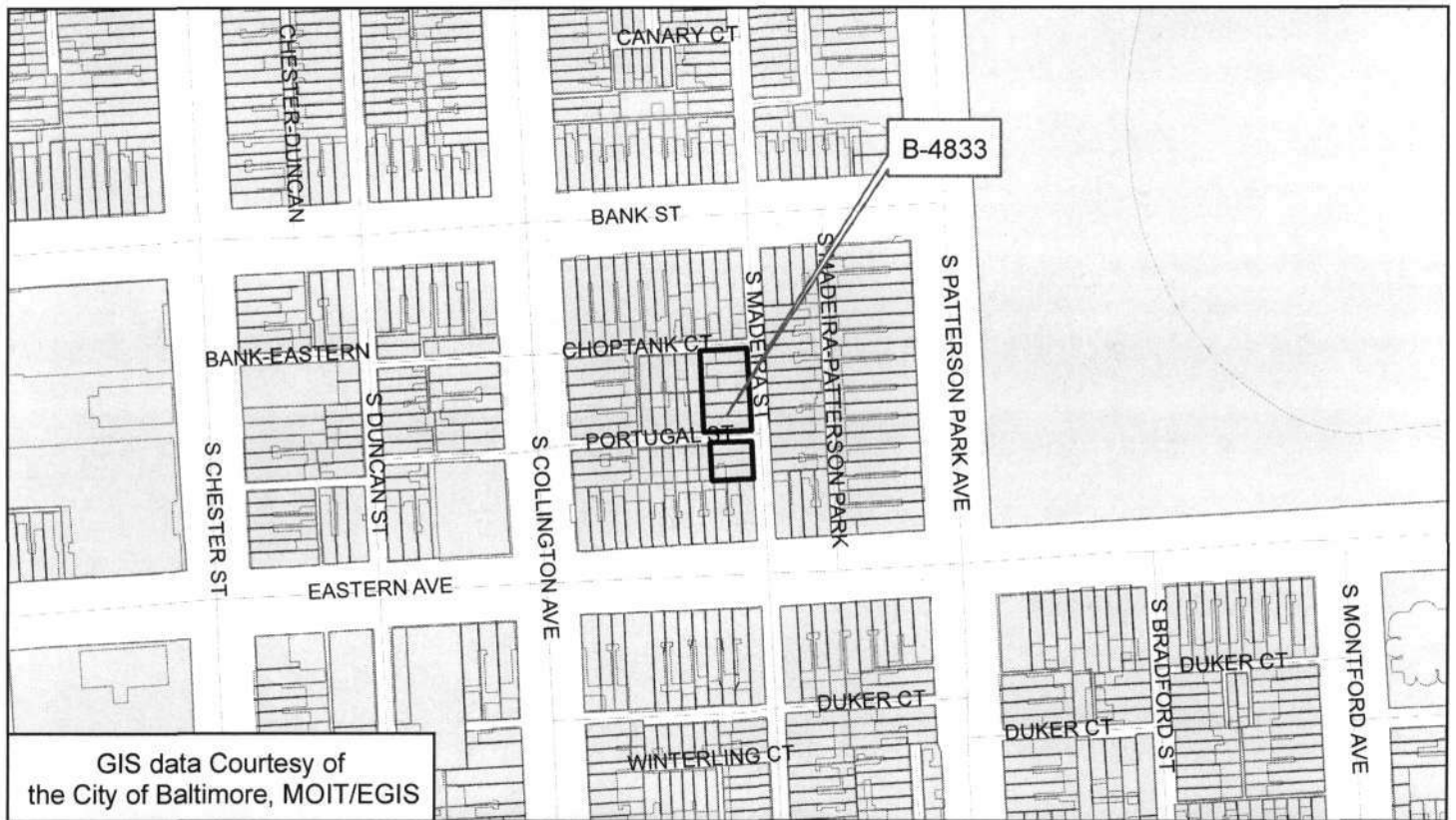
DRIVE

SOUTH DRIVE

BOAT LAKE

DRIVE

B-4833
404-420 S. Madeira Street
Block 1776 Lots 079-087
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





404-420 S Madeira
FP12

B-4833

404-420 S. Madeira St.

BALD. MD

Cibelfuse

12/97

1/2



412 S Madeira

FP12

B-4433

412 S. Madeira St,

BALTO. MD

C. Belgrave

12/91

2/2